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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

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March 8, 2007

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Dear Stakeholder:

The Higher Education Act (HEA) plays a critical role in fulfilling our national commitment that the United States remains prosperous and competitive by ensuring that:

- students graduate with the skills they need to be successful in the workplace;
- all students are college ready and have an opportunity to attend some form of post secondary education; and
- the cost of tuition is not pricing students and families out of higher education.

As we embark on the 110th Congress and renew efforts to complete the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, we invite you to share with us your best ideas for ensuring that the promise of the HEA is fulfilled for this generation of students and families and for those to come.

In addition to the broad HEA issues, we are particularly asking for your input in the following areas:

- Closing the access and completion gaps for first generation, low-income, and minority students;
- Improving the financial aid delivery system,
- Improving college preparation (academic, financial, and social) for students, including improvements for first generation, low-income, and minority students;
- Improving programs designed to distribute and leverage resources for need-based student aid;
- Developing finance and management models to address escalating college costs; and
- Increasing transparency of college costs and the accreditation process for students and their families.

We ask that you submit your recommendations with proposed legislative language and a description of the change from current law. Please submit them electronically, as soon as possible but no later than April 13, 2007 to HigherEdRecs@mail.house.gov. If you are unable to submit them electronically, please mail your recommendations to:

Committee on Education and Labor Attn: HEA Recommendations B-346 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

We all need to do more to foster access and success in higher education. We hope that you will join us in strengthening the Higher Education Act so that it meets the needs of our next generation of college students and our nation.

Sincerely,

George Miller

Chairman

Committee on Education and Labor

Rubén Hinojosa

Chairman

Subcommittee on Higher Education,

Lifelong Learning and Competitiveness

Howard "Buck" McKeon

Ranking Member

Committee on Education and Labor

Ric Keller

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Higher Education,

Lifelong Learning and Competitiveness